

(Washington, D.C.) -U.S. Representative Chet Edwards joined local leaders in Bryan Tuesday for a press conference and tour of the Army 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center.

"The 420th has a rich legacy of service to country including its recent tour in Afghanistan. The present building in Bryan is over 50 years old. It is undersized, and has crumbling walls and a falling foundation," said Edwards, Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. "I am going to do everything I can to try to obtain funding this year for a new headquarters."

The current facility, built in 1958, has fallen into disrepair and is inadequate to carry out the responsibilities of 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center presenting an ongoing safety concern for the Army Reserve soldiers who serve there. The current facility, it has been determined, is unsafe due to the instability of the foundation, which has resulted in cracked floors and damage to the walls and ceiling.

In 2008, Edwards secured \$920,000 in federal funds for the planning and design of a new Army Reserve Center. Going forward, Edwards intends to seek additional funds as Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee to help construct the new facility. Construction was currently scheduled to begin in 2013, but the design funding secured by Edwards enabled the project to be accelerated by three years. The total cost for construction is projected to be \$12.2 million.

Edwards is the Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.